

LITERARY NOTES.

The next number of *The English Illustrated Magazine* will contain a story by Thomas Hardy.

The forthcoming biography of George Eliot, written by her husband, is to have a portrait and several other illustrations. The novelist's letters occupy the larger part of the work, which will be published in October in two volumes. Nearly all of her most characteristic and attractive correspondence has been recovered. Much of it was written when she was a young girl.

In the letters which have lately been published in the *Debat* by M. Darmesteter, George Eliot dismisses many spiritual questions. In 1862 she wrote:

"I am too deeply convinced of the efficacy of all sincere belief, and of the moral aridity which follows the loss of it, to have anything in me of the negative propagandist. In fact, I have very little sympathy with the clan of Freethinkers, and I have lost all interest in merely anti-religious polemics." A letter dated February 5, 1862, is the following passage:

"As to forms of ceremony, I feel no regret that comfort should be sought for them by those who can find it there. But I have faith in the working out of higher possibilities than the Catholic or any other Church has presented, and those who have

strength to wait and endure are bound to accept no formula which their noble souls—their intellect as well as their emotions—do not embrace with entire reverence. The highest 'calling and election' is to do without opium, and live through all our pain with conscious, clear-eyed endurance."

In 1876 she declared that: "We're not for the pure goodness which is flowing obscurely and noiselessly, one

would be disposed to believe that this world is only the world of a demon. A disinterested effort is good, not for good that it produces, but good in itself and by itself. Many vessels are lost in expeditions of discovery; many precious cargoes are engulfed; but there has still been the good of preparing and equipping the vessel for a great object."

Mrs. Wallace, the wife of Minister Wallace, is writing a series of articles on the Bosphorus for *The Independent*. The first of the series appears in the current number.

Mr. Henry James's new story discusses not only the courtship but the problems growing out of the marriage of a rich American and a titled English girl.

Mr. Froude has finished his biography of Carlyle. He will bring out the concluding volumes in the autumn, and will reply in the third to the severe criticisms which he has incurred as the Scotchman's literary executor.

Professor George H. Palmer, of Harvard, is about to publish through the house of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. a translation of the *Odyssey*. The Greek text and the translation will appear on opposite pages.

The last literary work to which Charles Reade put his hand was his story of "A Perilous Secret," now appearing serially in *Harper's Bazaar*. It was completed a short time before his death, and the publication of the novel will therefore be unimportant.

Mr. Cupples, the publisher of Miss McLean's "Cape Cod Folks," tells, as reported by *The Boston Herald*, some curious facts concerning the result of the libel suit which was decided against him and in favor of one of the characters in that book. "The strangest part of it," says, "was the instantaneous effect of Nightingale's verdict upon Cederville. Claims of all sorts began to pour in upon us, exorbitant in amount and from quarters unexpected, and, indeed, unheard of. Threatening letters promising the rigor of the law were abundant. This perfect storm of clamor was always a cry for 'hush-hush!'"

It had but one burden—money, money, money.

Persons who had been paid or promised compensation; persons who had delayed for years in making mention of their wrongs; persons who had refused to bring suits because they had no claim, either made demands or increased them. We must either pay the entire village or fight it. Deliberately, and for many reasons, we preferred to settle. To-day, with trifling exceptions, every man, woman or child whose name is even casually mentioned in the novel called "Cape Cod Folks" has acknowledged full satisfaction. No such person in the entire community has failed to advance a claim.

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